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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
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1991 June Board Aragonite Briefing

On April 23rd 1991, the Board of Oil, Gas and Mining issued a Board Order to Thomas American Stone. The Order stated that the Board found the Respondent in violation of the Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act. In order to bring the Respondent into compliance with the Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act, the Board ordered that the operator follow through with several acts, regarding the permitting and reclamation of the Aragonite mine and mill site in Tooele County.

This is a summary of the major items specified under the Board Order and the current status of the mine and mill sites relative to the requirements outlined in the April 23rd Board Order.

Mill Site

1. Respondent will immediately cease all "mining activities" on the mill area outside of a five (5) acre tract surrounding the mill and buildings.

status - It appears that the operator has met this requirement, but without a plan detailing the area to be left as 5 acres, it is not possible to say for certain whether the operator is in full compliance with this requirement.

3. Respondent will immediately commence reclamation of all lands outside of the five (5) acre tract pursuant to an approved reclamation plan. The details of this reclamation plan will be approved by the Division and the BLM. A complete reclamation plan for the area outside the five acres will be developed by the Respondent and submitted for review by the Division and BLM no later than **May 10, 1991.**

status - The operator has begun to pull back material from the inactive portions of the site, and reclaim areas beyond the five acre limitation at the mill site. **However, the operator, to date, has not submitted a reclamation plan for review and approval by this Division.**

4. In connection with the reclamation work, Respondent will not bury any solid garbage or waste. All exposed garbage and trash will be removed from the site and properly disposed of at an approved state or county landfill within thirty (30) days of reclamation plan approval.

status - According to information obtained after inspections conducted by the BLM and the Division, the operator has not complied fully with this portion of the Order. The operator has removed some of the material to another location, but has not produced manifests required in the Board Order. Other material that the operator was asked to remove to a landfill, has remained on site and has been buried on site (in particular tires).

Mine Site

6. Respondent will immediately cease all mining operations at the mine site outside of the designated five (5) acre tract as approved by the Division and the BLM (as applicable).

status - An inspection conducted by the Division on May 15, 1991, indicated that the operator was disturbing new areas of the mine not discussed previously. The lack of an approved reclamation plan, at this time makes it difficult for the Division to identify accurately the five acre area, which is to be used specifically for mining.

7. Respondent will immediately install warning signs adjacent to the highwalls and at such other locations as the Division may direct. Respondent will also install such other safety devices as the Division may direct, including covers for exposed shafts, berms for highwalls and a cable or MSHA approved haul road berm along the county road next to the pit. All signs and safety devices shall be installed no later than April 30, 1991. Photo documentation will be provided to the Division by May 10, 1991.

status - The operator has implemented some measures in regard to complying with the safety requirements. A few signs have been established in the area and efforts have been made in regard to the establishment of barriers around the perimeter of the most accessible exposed areas. However, none of these efforts have been coordinated with or have been approved by the Division. The operator's photo documentation was received by the Division before the Board Order went out.

8. Respondent will immediately begin reclamation operations on the 3.4 acre area outside of the five acre mining tract. A detailed reclamation plan will be developed and approved by the Division before reclamation commences. A complete reclamation plan will be prepared by Respondent and submitted for review by the Division and BLM, no later than June 30, 1991.

status - **A reclamation plan for the mine site has not yet been submitted to the Division, and it is not anticipated that the operator will meet the June 30, 1991 deadline.**

Surety for Mine and Milling Area Reclamation

10. Respondent will post a \$6,000 reclamation surety, in a form satisfactory to the Division, with the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining within five (5) working days of date of entry of this Board Order, to secure its reclamation work on the areas outside of the two five (5) acre tracts identified above.

status - The operator has posted a \$6,000 certificate of deposit with the First Security Bank of Utah. The surety was established 5-1-91.

12. If Respondent fails to comply with the requirements of this Board Order in a timely fashion, the Board may order the cessation of all mining activities at the Aragonite mine and mill site and may order immediate reclamation.

Presented by: Holland Shepherd, Senior Reclamation Specialist